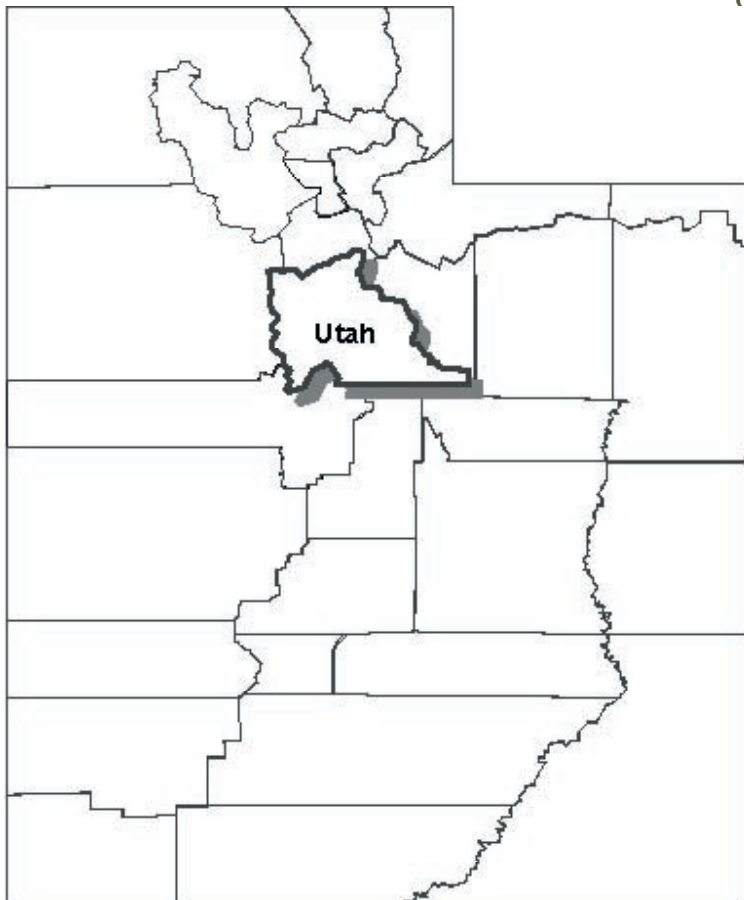


Utah County

Prepared for the:
Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment

Prepared by:
Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
with assistance from:
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Utah Division of Indian Affairs



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UTAH COUNTY OVERVIEW



County Land Ownership

43.5% — Private
 32.1% — Forest Service
 7.2% — Bureau of Land Mgt.
 6.7% — Water Bodies
 3.4% — State Trust Lands
 2.7% — State Wildlife
 1.2% — Military
 0.3% — Other
 2.8 % — Wilderness Areas
 0 % — Wilderness Study Area

source: SITLA, 2003

County Planned Uses

28.6% — Mining and Grazing
 41.3% — Critical Environment
 9.9% — Residential
 12.8% — Municipal
 0.3% — Business/Commercial
 0.2% — Public Facilities

source: Utah County

This overview contains observations drawn from the maps, economic and demographic trend data, and a review of county plans contained in this profile. In addition, it contains comments and explanations of county leaders and residents, gathered at workshops conducted to review this assessment.

Landscape

Utah County is a thriving part of the heavily-populated Wasatch Front but still contains a significant amount of open and public lands. Mountainous peaks to the east and west capture rainfall and supply much of the water that irrigates fields and supplies water to these communities. Nearly a third of the county is managed by the USFS, primarily in the Uinta National Forest, but also contains small portions of the Wasatch-Cache and Manti-La Sal National Forests. These public lands are an important part of the county's quality of life and are heavily used by residents for recreation.

The county was once known for its abundant agricultural production, particularly its fruit orchards. Today, only small traces of its agricultural past remain and many formerly agricultural lands that remain are home to hobby farms or equestrian properties. With home-building pressure from both Salt Lake City and Provo-Orem, the county is growing in all directions. Areas that were once farm fields are being filled in with homes and more marginally buildable lands—close to the slopes of the Wasatch Mountains and the shores of Utah Lake—are also being developed with homes.

Population and Economy

Utah County's population nearly tripled between 1970 and 2000 and is expected to continue growing at a rapid pace in the next decade. The population growth was led by an extremely fast-growing job market, which was higher than both the state and national average. Much of the job growth in the last decade can be attributed to technology and information-sector, as well as the growth of several universities in the county. While the county's educational levels are likely higher due to these universities, average incomes are somewhat depressed by student incomes and a large average family size.

Planning

Utah County has almost completed its transition from a rural, agricultural county to an urbanized region. The county participates in region-wide transportation planning and encourages regional planning through Mountainland Association of Governments, the North County Mayor's Committee, and the South County

UTAH COUNTY OVERVIEW

Current Issues

suburban growth
affordable housing
transportation congestion and
funding
losing access to public lands
health of Utah Lake

Mayor's Council. Major efforts are ongoing to plan for regional transit, highway upgrades, and trail systems. Municipal and county-wide planning documents are numerous and significantly different than those of more rural, resource-based communities. Thus, they were not reviewed here.